Subject: Capt. William E. Warner collection of U.S. badges, killed in the Knickerbocker Theater disaster in Washington, D.C., 1921.

Warner, Stanley (Alameda, CA)

1933

2012 San Jose Avenue
Alameda, California
July 30, 1933

Secretary
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th Street
New York City

Dear Sir:-

I have in my possession the collection of United States campaign badges which belonged to my brother, Captain William E. Warner, who was killed in 1921 in the Knickerbocker Theatre disaster at Washington, D. C. Attached is a list of the medals in his collection.

Am writing to you as secretary of The American Numismatic Society to see if the society would be interested in acquiring this collection. Before me is a letter under date of March 9, 1917 from Mr. B. L. Belden to my brother in regard to several items in the collection, asking if he would like to sell two of the medals to the society. It was this letter which prompted me in writing to you.

As a matter of preference would rather dispose of the collection as a whole. However, should the society, or any individual members, be interested in acquiring any of the medals separately, I would be interested in receiving such information.

I haven't any idea what the collection is worth so wouldn't attempt to place a value on it myself. Should the society be interested in it, wish they would make me an offer for it. Should the society not be interested in it, any information you would care to give me as to its value would be greatly appreciated.

Hoping to hear from you at your convenience,
I am,

Very truly yours,

Stanley Sparner

UNITED STATES MEDALS

CAMPAIGN BADGES--ARMY

1. CIVIL WAR. Second Ribbon. Numbered.
2. INDIAN WARS. Numbered. (Two.)
3. WAR WITH SPAIN. First Ribbon. Numbered.
4. WAR WITH SPAIN. Second Ribbon. Numbered.
5. PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION. Numbered.
6. CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION. Numbered. (Two.)
7. CUBAN PACIFICATION. Numbered.
8. CUBAN OCCUPATION. Numbered. (Two.)

11. 16.50

CAMPAIGN BADGES--NAVY.

1. CIVIL WAR. Second Ribbon. Not numbered.
2. WEST INDIES CAMPAIGN. First Ribbon. Numbered.
3. CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION. Second Ribbon. Unnumbered. (Two.)
4. NICARAGUAN CAMPAIGN. Numbered.
5. HAITIAN CAMPAIGN. Numbered.

6 9.00

CAMPAIGN BADGES--MARINE CORPS.

1. CIVIL WAR. Second Ribbon. Numbered.
2. SPANISH CAMPAIGN. Second Ribbon. Numbered.
3. PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN. Second Ribbon. Numbered.
4. CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION. Second Ribbon. Numbered.
5. CUBAN PACIFICATION. Numbered.
6. NICARAGUAN CAMPAIGN. Numbered.
7. MEXICAN CAMPAIGN. Numbered.

7 10.50

5.00 MEDAL FOR THE BATTLE OF MANILA BAY. One with leather case, and one withour leather case.

4.00 PHILIPPINE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL. Numbered. (Two.)

1.50 MARINE CORPS--GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL.

3.00 NAVY--GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL. (Two.)

5.00 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS. Plain arms.

3.00 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS. Arms decorated with oak leaves.

2.00 STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDAL--Spanish American War. Numbered.

60.00

August 4, 1933.

Mr. Stanley Warner
2012 San Jose Avenue
Alameda, California.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter concerning the campaign badges of your late brother would say that we would be interested in several of them. We have them all but we would like to be able to show both sides in a number of instances where we have at the present time only one specimen. Also, one of our members would take off our hands those we did not want, as in a rough check up those we do not want are wanted by our member collector. It is a little difficult to put a price on these as very few now collect these medals and we have no current price to go by. We are prepared to offer you $60.00 for the entire collection, contingent on our examing these, as we are a little doubtful if the two Distinguished Service Crosses are genuine. Although not rare they nevertheless have been counterfeited by a Paris manufacturer.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

2012 San Jose Avenue
Alameda, California
August 31, 1933

Howland Wood, Curator
The American Numismatic Society
New York City

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of August 4th saying the society is prepared to offer $60.00 for the entire collection of American campaign badges, contingent upon your examining same.

Yesterday I shipped them to you by parcel post in order to give you the opportunity to look them over and judge of their condition, etc.

On the whole rather expected them to be of considerable more value than the price you set upon them, or rather, than the amount you are prepared to give for them. My brother picked them up at odd times when the opportunity presented itself, often at such places as little shops near the Presidio here in San Francisco, at prices I know he considered as rock bottom. Nevertheless even these he paid at least two dollars for, and for some I know he paid more than double this. I had thought with the passage of time, and considering the collection as a whole, that it would have a considerable value, tho just what it would approximate I had no idea.

However, you now have the collection in your hands, and if you care to give me $75.00 for it, it is yours. I think, taking everything in consideration, the times, the number and rarity of the medals, that this is quite a fair price. At another time no doubt it might be of greater value, but that is something else again.

It may be of interest for me to mention that I have also some fifty foreign medals, English, French and German. Would you be interested in a list of these with the idea in mind of your acquiring them?

Sincerely yours,

Stanley Harmer

September 5, 1933.

Mr. Stanley Warner
2012 San Jose Avenue
Alameda, California.

Dear Sir:

We have received today 35 medals and badges(8 of these being duplicates) and a lot of ribbons and bars.

As Mr. Wood is on his vacation and will not return until the 15th of this month we cannot give you any report on these medals until his return.

Very truly yours,

RR:JG

Assistant Curator

September 21, 1933.

Mr. Stanley Warner
2012 San Jose Avenue
Alameda, California.

Dear Sir:

As my assistant wrote you on September 25th that I would write you on my return from my vacation I am herewith doing so with apologies, as I was pretty well crowded with work when I got back. I have only just gotten around to considering your medals. The two pieces I was setting the most hopes on, that is the two Distinguished Service Crosses, are the French reproductions and have no value. Consequently I am not prepared to offer you as much as I did in my first letter. I have also inquired around as to the market value of these today and find that no one would offer more than $1.00 each for them, if they bought to sell over again, and I doubt if I could get anything more than this for those that I do not care for. Also, the person that I thought might take some does not care to buy now.

Although I note you would like to get $75.00, I cannot consider this at all, nor can I consider $60.00 on account of the two fake crosses. The very best I could do is $50.00. The fake crosses I would return. I am holding everything here until I hear from you and will ship them back to you if you wish. Fifty dollars is absolutely the most I can offer.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

September 26, 1933

Howland Wood, Curator
The American Numismatic Society
New York City

Dear Mr. Wood:

Am sorry to learn the two Distinguished Service Crossess are counterfeit, and equally sorry to see the low market valuation you place on the collection.

However, I accept the offer of fifty dollars and would indeed appreciate a check at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

Stanley Garner

September 29, 1933.

Mr. Stanley Warner
2012 San Jose Avenue
Alameda, California.

Dear Mr. Warner:

Your letter just at hand and I have directed our bank to send you a check for $50.00. As there is a few days delay in putting it through our paying office you may not get the check until the end of next week.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator